



Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* **REPORT SUMMARY**

Performance Audit

**Animal Industry Division, Food and Dairy
Division, and Laboratory Division
Department of Agriculture**

**Report Number:
79-110-02**

**Released:
December 2002**

The Department of Agriculture's mission is to serve, promote, and protect the food, agricultural, environmental, and economic interests of the people of the State of Michigan. The Animal Industry Division protects the health of the State's domestic animals. The Food and Dairy Division protects the public health by ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply as well as working to maintain a viable food and dairy industry. The Laboratory Division provides scientific, analytical, testing, and consulting services for the programs of the Department and others.

Audit Objectives:

1. To assess the effectiveness of the Animal Industry Division's, Food and Dairy Division's and Laboratory Division's implementation of continuous quality improvement (CQI) initiatives.
2. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Animal Industry Division's operations in protecting the health of domestic animals in Michigan.
3. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Food and Dairy Division's operations in protecting the public health by ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply.
4. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Laboratory Division's consumer protection and agricultural support services.

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Audit Conclusions:

1. Our assessment disclosed that the Animal Industry Division, Food and Dairy Division, and Laboratory Division were moderately effective in implementing CQI initiatives.
2. We concluded that the Animal Industry Division's operations were generally effective and efficient in protecting the health of domestic animals in Michigan.
3. We concluded that the Food and Dairy Division's operations were generally effective and efficient in protecting the public health by ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply.
4. We concluded that the Laboratory Division was generally effective and efficient in providing consumer protection and agricultural support services.

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Noteworthy Accomplishments:

The State has made progress against bovine tuberculosis through a program that includes extensive testing of wildlife and farm animals, restrictions on moving cattle out of the infected region, and construction of an animal disease laboratory at Michigan State University.

The Food and Dairy Division was instrumental in bringing about the Food Law of 2000, which was the first major overhaul of Michigan's food safety laws in more than 30 years. The Food and Dairy Division also recently worked with the Legislature to update and consolidate Michigan's dairy laws and regulations, combining 21 laws and regulations into two updated acts.

In 2000, the Department's E.C. Heffron Metrology Laboratory passed the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program on-site audit without any

deficiencies noted and was only the second state laboratory in the United States accredited at the highest calibration level possible for mass standards.

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Reportable Condition:

The Animal Industry Division, Food and Dairy Division, and Laboratory Division need to enhance their CQI processes regarding evaluating program effectiveness (Finding 1).

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Agency Response:

The Department agreed with the finding and stated that the Animal Industry Division, Food and Dairy Division, and Laboratory Division will continue to take steps to enhance their CQI processes relative to evaluating program effectiveness.

A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: www.state.mi.us/audgen/



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